

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A shade leveler comprising:
a threaded post with a groove on one end; and
a shade leveling ring having a first raised profile and having a first opening configured to prevent the threaded post from passing completely through the first opening.
2. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 1, further comprising:
a finial ring with a second raised profile and a second opening.
3. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 2, wherein the finial ring is configured to move in relationship to the threaded post when the shade leveler is assembled.
4. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 1, wherein the first raised profile is substantially dome-shaped.
5. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 1, wherein the first raised profile is substantially cone-shaped.
6. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 1, wherein the shade leveling ring is configured to support a shade bracket.
7. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 1, wherein the groove is configured to engage a harp when the post is rotated.
8. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 1, further comprising:
a base with a ridge, wherein the shade leveling ring is configured to rigidly connect to the ridge.
9. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 8, wherein the groove is configured to engage the ridge when the post is rotated.

10. (Original) A shade leveler comprising:
a post; and
a washer with a flat outer portion and a raised inner portion, wherein the washer is configured to move relative to the post when a shade bracket is attached to the post.
11. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 10, further comprising:
a finial ring with a raised profile, wherein instead of the washer the finial ring is configured to move relative to the post when the shade bracket is attached to the post.
12. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 10, wherein the raised inner portion is substantially dome-shaped.
13. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 10, wherein the raised inner portion is substantially cone-shaped.
14. (Original) The shade leveler of claim 10, wherein the washer is configured to allow the shade bracket to tilt in all directions relative to a harp.
15. (Currently Amended) A method for leveling a tipped shade that is securely attached to a shade supporting device comprising:
returning the shade to a ~~level~~ naturally-balanced position on the shade supporting device using ~~a natural balancing point of the shade~~ only a force that is attributable to the earth's gravity.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein returning the shade to the level position using the natural balancing point of the shade comprises:
attaching the shade to the shade supporting device using a ~~ring~~ washer that allows the shade to tilt in all directions relative to the shade supporting device.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein attaching the shade to the shade supporting device using the ~~ring~~ washer comprises:
holding a post loosely against the shade supporting device with the ~~ring~~ washer, wherein the ~~ring~~ washer is rigidly affixed to the shade supporting device; and
securing the shade to the post.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the shade supporting device is chosen from the group consisting of a harp and a riser from an S-cluster.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein holding the post loosely against the shade supporting device with the ring washer comprises:

preventing the post from rotating about a first axis that is perpendicular to a plane of the ring washer and that passes through a center of the ring washer; and

allowing a second axis running longitudinally through the post to become non-parallel with respect to the first axis.

20. (Currently Amended) A shade leveler for a light fixture having at least one light bulb, the shade leveler comprising:

an attachment device structured to securely attach a shade to a shade supporting device, the shade supporting device structured to support the shade; and

a self-leveling apparatus, the self-leveling apparatus structured to prevent the shade from contacting the at least one light bulb, the self-leveling apparatus structured to return the shade to a level position on the shade supporting device after the shade has been displaced from the level position, and the self-leveling apparatus structured to return the shade to the level position without manual adjustment of the self-leveling apparatus.

21. (New) A method for leveling a tipped shade that is securely attached to a shade supporting device, the method comprising:

returning the shade to a level position using a natural balancing point of the shade, wherein returning the shade to the level position includes attaching the shade to the shade supporting device using a ring that allows the shade to tilt in all directions relative to the shade supporting device, wherein attaching the shade to the shade supporting device includes holding a post loosely against the shade supporting device with the ring and securing the shade to the post, wherein the ring is rigidly affixed to the shade supporting device.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein holding the post loosely against the shade supporting device with the ring comprises:

preventing the post from rotating about a first axis that is perpendicular to a plane of the ring and that passes through a center of the ring; and

allowing a second axis running longitudinally through the post to become non-parallel with respect to the first axis.